

ABSTRACT

In a non-volatile semiconductor memory system (or other type of memory  
5 system), a memory cell is programmed by changing the threshold voltage of that memory  
cell. Because of variations in the programming speeds of different memory cells in the  
system, the possibility exists that some memory cells will be over programmed. That is,  
in one example, the threshold voltage will be moved past the intended value or range of  
values. The present invention includes determining whether the memory cells are over  
10 programmed.